

REMARKS

FIRST TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

A telephone interview between Examiner Ngo, and Applicant's representatives Mark Holland and Mark Pellegrini was conducted on November 3, 2004. The substances of that interview included, among other things, the general nature of the Office Action dated July 28, 2004, and specifically U.S. Patent No. 6,619,498, issued to Von Holdt, J. No agreement was reached regarding the claims.

SECOND TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

A subsequent telephone interview was conducted between Examiner Ngo's supervisor Steven Cronin, and Applicant's representatives Mark Holland and Mark Pellegrini on November 16, 2004. The substance of that interview included, among other things, a review of the prior art of record. Specifically, an agreement was reached that the claims, as amended below, are allowable over the prior art of record.

In this regard, independent Claims 2, 4, 14, 16, and 18-20 have been amended to include a container having an upper edge "having an inner contact surface and an outer contact surface tapering generally to a single point", this limitation sufficiently distinguished over the art of which Applicant and the Examiner were aware, including the art of record.

It was further agreed during the interview that the Examiner's objection and/or rejection to Applicant's claimed V-shaped channel as indicated in paragraphs 1-4 of the July 28, 2004 Office Action, would be overcome by deleting that term in the specification and claims and defining of Applicant's channel as corresponding in shape to the tapered upper edge of Applicant's container. In other words, the channel of Applicant's lid is configured to "abut and

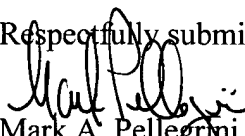
form a liquid tight seal” with the container’s tapered upper edge. Applicant has amended Claims 4, 14, and 16 in that regard.

New claims 22 and 23 have been added to describe methods of packaging pursuant to the preceding claims. Specifically, Claim 22 more fully describes a method of packaging a thing using the apparatus described in the claims, whereas Claim 23 more fully describes a method of packaging a liquid using the lid described in the claims.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, it is thought that the application including Claims 2-5 and 14-23 is now in condition for allowance, notice whereof is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

If the Examiner had any questions regarding the foregoing, or if the Examiner would like to discuss any remaining or new issues regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative of Applicant at (949) 718-6750.

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Respectfully submitted,

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